

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-13 and 15-17 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 3 and 14 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 1, 4 and 12 are amended. Claims 1 and 12 are amended to incorporate canceled subject matter. Claim 4 is amended due to a change in its dependency. Thus, no new matter is added.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration; and (c) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

I. Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants respectfully request acknowledgement of receipt and consideration of the references submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on February 21, 2006.

II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1 and 3-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by JP10-056760 to Hiroyuki. As claims 3 and 14 are canceled, the rejection of those claims is moot. The rejection of claims 1, 4-13 and 15-17 is respectfully traversed.

Hiroyuki fails to disclose each and every feature recited in the rejected claims, as amended. For example, Hiroyuki fails to disclose an AC generator for a vehicle, comprising . . . a rectifier fixedly secured to said frame and equipped with a radiating fin which cools a rectifying element and makes an electrical connection; and a cooling wind generating device for sucking cooling wind through said rectifier into the rotor side, wherein said radiating fin includes a fixing portion to which said rectifying element is fixedly secured and a sub-fin extending radially from said fixing portion toward an outer circumferential end

portion of said radiating fin observed from a position of said rectifying element, a cooling wind suction side end portion of said sub-fin further protrudes toward a cooling wind suction side with respect to one of a cooling wind suction side end portion of said fixing portion and a cooling wind suction side end portion of said rectifying element fixed to said fixing portion, and said radiating fin has an air passage surrounded by said fixing portion, said sub-fin and the outer circumferential end portion of said radiating fin, as recited in amended claim 1.

Additionally, Hiroyuki fails to disclose an AC generator for a vehicle, comprising . . . wherein said radiating fin comprises a fixing portion to which said rectifying element is fixedly secured; a first sub-fin extending radially from said fixing portion toward an outer circumferential end portion of said radiating fin observed from a position of said rectifying element; and a second sub-fin, having an arc-like configuration formed concentrically with the axis of said rectifying element, made to divide an air passage surrounded by said fixing portion, said first sub-fin and the outer circumferential end portion of said radiating fin, and the first sub-fin traverses the air passage and the second sub-fin, as recited in amended claim 12.

It is alleged in the Office Action that Hiroyuki discloses each and every feature recited in the rejected claims. For example, it is alleged that the copper plate 61, as shown in Fig. 7A, corresponds to the fixing portion recited under rejected claims. It is further alleged that the screen section 63 corresponds to a sub-fin extending radially from the fixing portion. However, as clearly shown in Fig. 7B, the copper plate 61 is sandwiched between the rectifying element 55 and the heat sink 53. Therefore, the screen section 63 does not extend radially from the copper plate.

Additionally, it is alleged that the through tube 59 in Hiroyuki corresponds to an opening as recited in the rejected claims that is surrounded by the fixing portion. However, as clearly shown in Fig. 7B, the copper plate is disposed between the rectifying element and the

heat sink 53. Therefore, it is impossible for the through tube to be surrounded by the copper plate 61 as the copper plate is disposed below the entire heat sink 53.

Moreover, even were the screen section 63 to correspond to the claimed sub-fin that extends radially from the fixing portion, the screen section 63 would extend from the copper plate 61 to an embossed part 57. The embossed part has a slope shape that extends from the copper plate toward a direction which is opposed to the extending direction of a guide plate 65. Thus, the cooling wind suction side extends radially from the copper plate 61 to the embossed part 57 and is not equal to or higher than the cooling wind suction side of the copper plate 61 (see for example Figs. 4A, 4B, 5A, 5B, 6A, 6B, 7A, 7B and 8A, 8B of Hiroyuki). Rather the height of the cooling wind suction side of the copper plate 61 is equal to or higher, not lower than the embossed part 57 and the screen section 63. Thus, even accepting the interpretation of the features as alleged in the Office Action, Hiroyuki fails to disclose the additional features recited in the rejected claims as amended.

Regarding the rejection of independent claim 12, the screen section 63 of Hiroyuki does not correspond to the second sub-fin recited in the rejected claims. As shown in Fig. 7B, the screen section 63 only is formed to surround the copper plate 61 of the rectifying element 65 and does not divide the opening, i.e., through tube 59. Further, as recited in the rejected claims, the second sub-fin divides the air passage. As Hiroyuki fails to disclose each and every feature recited in the rejected claims, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 3-17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

III. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Hiroyuki. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

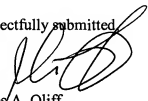
Claim 2 is allowable for its dependency on independent claim 1 for the reasons discussed above, as well as for the additional features recited therein.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 2, 4-13 and 15-17 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: April 14, 2006

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